

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR, US

SUBJECT:NOMINATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM

REF: A. MOSCOW 5434; B. LENINGRAD 659; C. MOSCOW 4313;

D. STATE115197

1. DEPT HAS REVIEWED REFTEL A PROPOSING NOMINATIONS OF SOVIETS FOR INTERNATIONAL VISITOR (IV) PROGRAM.

2. WE CONCUR IN PRINCIPLE WITH PROPOSALS TO NOMINATE, AS A START, THE TEN SOVIETS MENTIONED BY NAME IN REFTELS A AND B (Y. M. TYAZHELNIKOV, V. G. AFANAS'YEV, A. SOKOLOV, V. P. PANOV, Y. A. NECHAYEV, L. A. KOROLYOV, D. ROZANOV, B. I. ARISTOV, A. K. VARSOBIN, V. N. LOBKO). WE RAN NAME CHECKS ON THESE INDIVIDUALS. NO DEROGATORY INFORMATION DEVELOPED, AND NO OBJECTIONS TO VISA ISSUANCE RAISED. HOWEVER, THERE IS ALWAYS POSSIBILITY THAT OBJECTION MIGHT DEVELOP WHEN FULL NAMES AND BIRTH DATA ARE AVAILABLE. CAN EMBASSY/CONGEN PROVIDE THIS DATA BEFORE INVITATIONS EXTENDED AND VISA APPLI-

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CATIONS MADE? ADVISE. THIS CONNECTION NOMINATIONS SHOULD FOLLOW FORMAT OUTLINED IN THE DEPT'S CA-8585 OF OCT. 12, 1973 TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE.

3. WE CONCUR IN PRINCIPLE ALSO WITH PROPOSAL TO INVITE CPSU FIRST SECRETARIES OF MEDIUM-SIZED CITIES (PARA 5 REFTTEL A). HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE SOVIETS MIGHT REACT ADVERSELY TO OUR

SINGLING OUT CERTAIN SMALLER CITIES AT EXPENSE OF LARGER CITIES, AS WELL AS OUR INTEREST IN PARTY AS OPPOSED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. PROPOSAL MIGHT BE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO SOVIETS IF LIST WERE BROADENED TO INCLUDE SEVERAL LARGER CITIES, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS PARTY OFFICIALS. IN ANY EVENT WE WOULD PREFER TO BEGIN WITH SPECIFIC NOMINATIONS OF INDIVIDUALS WHOSE QUALIFICATIONS ARE PERSONALLY KNOWN TO EMBASSY AND CONGEN AND WHO EMBASSY AND CONGEN BELIEVE HAVE POTENTIAL FOR ADVANCEMENT. THIS MEANS WE MAY HAVE TO START WITH THOSE CITIES WHICH ARE AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY AND CONGEN OFFICERS AND WHERE WE HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET PARTY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THE OTHER CITIES COULD FOLLOW IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS.

4. WE CONCUR IN PRINCIPLE WITH IDEA OF DELEGATION OF MINISTERS OF CULTURE OF VARIOUS SOVIET REPUBLICS (PARA 9 REFTTEL A). EMBASSY SHOULD BEAR IN MIND, HOWEVER, THAT DEPT WOULD BE UNABLE TO ACCEPT MINISTERS OF BALTIC REPUBLICS.

5. RE METHOD OF EXTENDING INVITATIONS, WE CONCUR WITH EMBASSY RECOMMENDATION THAT THEY GO DIRECTLY TO NOMINEES WITH COPY TO MFA CULTURAL DIVISION (PARA 3 REFTTEL C). EMBASSY WILL NOTE (REFTTEL D) THAT SOVIETS APPROACHED MAYOR WASHINGTON DIRECTLY RE INVITATION TO VISIT USSR, WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH DEPT. KISSINGER

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